

HALIFAX CHRONICLE'S "EVIDENCE" OF DISCONTENT AMONG CANADIANS MADE OUT OF WHOLE CLOTH

Premier Confounds Liberals By Reading Letters to Show Crowell's Yarn Exaggerated

Halifax Chronicle's Statement of Alleged Conditions at Salisbury Repudiated by Officers and Men—"Booze and Cigars" for Soldiers Who Subscribed to Grit Organ's Incorrect Statement—Another Liberal Bubble Pricked.

Ottawa, March 25.—When Parliament met tonight Mr. Rhodes brought up again the question of the alleged ill treatment of the 17th Nova Scotia Battalion, at Valcartier and Salisbury Plain. He said he could not understand how the member for Richmond, (Mr. Kite), could feel that he was serving any public service in airing the matter in the House, as he had done last night. No satisfactory investigation in any case could be had while the men were at the front, but notwithstanding this, the member for Richmond had proceeded to make an ex-parte statement to the House.

Referring to the memorandum received by Mr. Sinclair last night, signed by returned members of the Nova Scotia battalion, declaring that the articles which had appeared in the Morning Chronicle, Feb. 25th, written by H. C. Crowell, were a true statement of the facts concerning the treatment of the 17th Battalion, Mr. Rhodes proceeded to read affidavits, just received from several of these men, declaring that they had signed the document referred to by Mr. Sinclair under misapprehension.

The first affidavit read by Mr. Rhodes was from Alfred Aldrich, in which the latter said that he repudiated the Halifax Chronicle article, and had signed the memorandum referred to by Mr. Sinclair without knowing to what it pertained. A second affidavit read by Mr. Rhodes was from W. T. Aldrich, also an ex-member of the 17th, and now in Halifax. He declared that his signature had been secured under misapprehension, and after the cigars had been passed around and liquor supplied to the men who had signed. Most of the statements contained in the Halifax Chronicle were untrue, he declared, and the 17th were treated as well as any other battalion at Salisbury Plain.

H. T. Clarkson swore in a third affidavit read by Mr. Rhodes, that he had been asked to sign a paper, and set a cigar. The contents of the memorandum were not properly understood by the men who signed it.

H. Dobson, another returned soldier, swore that he saw many of the men sign the memorandum, who had not read it at all.

Copy of Letter Stolen? Pond Farm Camp, Salisbury, November 4, 1914. Dear Sir Robert,

I have just learned from Lieut.-Col. Andrews that a copy of a statement signed by me had been received by you.

It was drawn up previous to your visit to Valcartier, when we were all smarting under the unmerited treatment we had received. Your visit rendered the completion of the paper unnecessary, and I put the original and two copies aside to destroy them. I find that I have now only the original and one copy left, and am utterly at a loss to know how or by whom the other copy was forwarded to you.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant, (Signed) STRUAN ROBERTSON. To this the Premier replied:— Ottawa, Ont., November 26, 1914. Mr. Dear Col. Robertson,

Your letter of the 4th inst. reached me in due course. No copy of your communication was furnished by me to General Hughes, but from some source a copy had evidently reached him, as he has alluded to it in correspondence and in conversation.

Believe me, yours faithfully, R. L. BORDEN. Crowell Knew His Yarn Was Incorrect. Office of Director of Medical Services, 24 Victoria street, London, S. W., Feb. 27th, 1915. The Hon. Sir George Perley, High Commissioner for Canada, 17 Victoria street, S. W. My Dear Sir George,

their health has been very good. Yours very truly, (Signed) G. C. JONES, Surgeon General, Director of Medical Services, Canadian Contingents.

War Office, Whitehall, S. W., 1-3, 1915. Dear Sir George, I showed the enclosed telegram to Lord Kitchener, who desired me to say that, as you surmised, the allegations of the writer in the Halifax Chronicle were quite untrue. The Secretary of State did not know whether there were any means of bringing the originator of these malicious falsehoods within the reach of the law, for, of course, such statements were calculated, if not strenuously denied, to have had effects.

Yours sincerely, (Signed) H. J. CREEDEY, Secretary to Lord Kitchener. Premier Borden explained that the telegram referred to by Lord Kitchener's secretary was the one he had sent to Sir Geo. Perley, giving a summary of the Halifax Chronicle article written by Crowell.

Col. Alderson's Reply. The last letter read by the Premier was the following, from General Alderson:— France, March 7th, 1915. Dear Sir George,

I have your letter in which you send a copy of a cable from the Prime Minister regarding the 17th Battalion. Were it not serious, in that it gives the people of Nova Scotia a totally wrong impression, the article in the Halifax Chronicle would be as childish as the idea, that you told me of, that trenches around tents were not allowed on Salisbury Plain, because they would interfere with the hunting. The only word of truth in the whole article is that Col. Robertson has been replaced.

The fact that the units knew that they were not coming with the division naturally dampened every one's spirits, and I have no doubt some of the men, writing home, would overdraw the picture of the inevitable difficulties and discomforts.

All the nonsense about being used as scavengers, etc., is pure invention. Yours sincerely, (Signed) E. A. H. ALDERSON. Sinclair "Hedges." Mr. Sinclair said he was not personally concerned with the grievances of the men who had signed the memorandum which he had read in the House last night. What he merely wanted to do was to find out the truth in regard to the treatment of the men of the 17th Battalion. He had not expected in any way on the War Office, or the treatment which the men had received in England, but he had referred particularly to what had happened at Valcartier and for this he thought he needed no apology.

JAPAN NOW HAS 150,000 SOLDIERS IN CHINA;—CHINA ASKS, "WHY?"

Japanese Boycott is being organized in Shanghai and Anti-Japanese feeling seems to be increasing throughout the Provinces.

Peking, Mar. 25.—At the conference today of Japanese diplomatic representatives with Chinese statesmen concerning Tokyo's demands upon the Chinese republic, the Chinese formally inquired as to the meaning of the recent entrance of Japanese troops into China. Minister Hoki replied that these soldiers were for the relief of the present Japanese garrisons in China, but that these garrisons would remain where they were until the conclusion of the present negotiations.

According to reliable information the Japanese at the present time have eight divisions in China and Korea. The discussion today concerning Tokyo's demands was upon the clause granting Japan the right to exploit mines in nine specified areas of South Manchuria. The war strength of a Japanese division is 18,700 officers and men, 4,800 horses and thirty-six pieces of artillery.

London, Mar. 25.—A despatch from Shanghai to Reuters Telegram Company says: "The Chinese of Shanghai are trying to organize a Japanese boycott. Placards posted over the town, exhorting the people to support the boycott, have been seized by the police. It is reported that anti-Japanese feeling is increasing in all the provinces."

Continued from page 1. KING VISITS NAVAL STATION. Harwich, Eng., Mar. 26 (2.07 a.m.)—King George yesterday paid an informal visit to the Harwich Naval Station. Wearing the undress uniform of an Admiral of the fleet, the King arrived on a special train in a downpour of rain.

On alighting the King shook hands with a few naval and military officers on the platform of the station. He then noticed the white duck-clad sailors in the guard of honor drawn up along the platform were without overcoats, and ordered them to withdraw immediately to shelter.

The King made a tour of the harbor, visiting the various warships and taking lunch on board the Ganges, a training ship for boys. The King showed particular interest in the repair ship, on board which he watched the artificers at work. He also inspected one of the newest of the submarines.

RUSSIAN ADVANCE IN MOUNTAIN

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Later King George crossed to Felixstowe, where he saw the mine-sweepers, and witnessed a seaplane flight. He returned to London early in the evening.

WHITE OUTFIGHT LEACH. New York, March 26.—Charley White, Chicago lightweight, outfought Leach Cross, of New York, in a ten-round bout here tonight, White getting the honors in five rounds and Cross in two, while three were even. Both men fought deliberately, trying hard for a knockout, and sacrificing science for fighting.

PERSONAL. Miss Annie Poole, St. John, is the guest of Mrs. Ralph Freeze of Sussex. Miss Caille McInerney and Miss Mae Heenan of Sussex spent the week-end in St. John. Mrs. A. S. White of Sussex spent Wednesday in St. John. Mrs. A. Myers, who has been visiting relatives in St. John, has returned to Sussex.

Our Hat Sale Continues

We still have a splendid assortment of those elegant tagel, hemp, milan and hair Hats at \$2.00 and \$3.00, the originals of these Hats cost from \$7.00 to \$10.00.

Bewitching little Hats for children, from England, in Dresden Silk with contrasting brims—see our models.

Our Trimmed Hats are capturing the trade, to see them is to buy them.

Marr Millinery Co. Ltd.

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New I. C. R. Bridges.

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CURES ALL KIDNEY DISEASES. RHEUMATISM, BRONCHITIS, DIABETES, BACKACHE.

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Max Figman and Jesse L. Leskey's Company

IN THE FIVE-ACT COMEDY DRAMA

"What's-His-Name?"

The Absorbing Narrative of a Small Town Wife Who Left Her Drug Clerk Husband to Go On the Stage. How She Was Disillusioned.

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Vibrating with Genuine Thrills RELIANCE FEATURE PLAY 2 Acts—60 Scenes

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Don't Forget, Boys and Girls THE MATINEE TREAT OF THE YEAR

Thankyouer Kiddles as "LITTLE MISS MISCHIEF"

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"10 NIGHTS IN A BAR ROOM"

And Best Amateur Contest of the Season

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MARITIME MEMBERS

Continued from page 1.

Mr. Gutelius received three hundred letters a day. With a private car he could carry his secretary and they could do his business all the time.

Mr. Cochrane said that under the present government the wages of employees of the I. C. R. had been enormously increased, and that instructions had been given to the officials to keep their eyes on the men, with a view to future promotions.

In dealing with the management he had kept Mr. Brady, who had been able to give him the most information about the system.

Mr. David Pottinger, was, like himself, growing older. The minister said that if he could retain Mr. Gutelius at his present salary as manager he thought it would be in the interest of the road to do so. If he had any criticism to offer with regard to the railroad, it would be with reference to the engineering. The former engineers seemed to have tried to get grades, instead of trying to get rid of them.

To Mr. Boulay, the minister said that he regretted that the fact that dining car crews lacked a man who could speak French was not brought to his attention sooner. With regard to the other point raised by the members for Rimouki, he said he believed it good for the men to move them from place to place.

Mr. Copp again returned to the subject of private cars, and stated that they were used, not only to convey officials' wives from Moncton to St. John, but had been attached to ex-

LYRIC THUR. SAT.

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FISKE AND FOWLER

In Song, Dance & Piano Selections

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American Comedy Drama

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